

Application No. 09/778,401
Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated April 19, 2006
Response dated May 16, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Examiner's Office Action mailed June 28, 2005, claims 1-23 were rejected.

Claims 1-2 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §1032(a) as being unpatentable over *Harp, Jr.* (U.S. 5,585,612) in view of *Walker, et al.* (U.S. 6,443,843). Claims 3-10 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Harp, Jr.* in view of *McClure, et al.* (U.S. 6,250,548). Claims 11-20 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Harp, Jr.* in view of *Walker, et al.* in view of *McClure, et al.* in further view of *Sarner, et al.* (U.S. 5,666,765) in further view of *Trotta, et al.* (U.S. 5,072,999).

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejections are in error. As described in Applicant's prior remarks, in particular Applicant's remarks of March 30, 2005, the art cited by the Examiner fails to disclose all elements required by Applicant's claims. For the sake of brevity, Applicant hereby incorporates those remarks by reference. Despite the absence of all claim elements required by the Applicant's claims in the art cited by the Examiner, Applicant has amended the presently pending claims to more particularly distinguish them over the cited art.

As previously mentioned, Applicant received a Notice of Non-compliant Amendment in response to their December 28, 2005 communication because the Remarks section did not begin on a separate sheet. Applicants have corrected the error and now believe the Amendment to be in compliance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121.

No charges are believed due in connection with this Amendment, but the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any amount required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2112.

MAY. 17. 2006 10:00AM

NO. 2610 P. 11/11

Application No. 09/778,401
Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated April 19, 2006
Response dated May 16, 2006

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the pending rejections and the allowance of claims 1-23. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if he believes that an interview would advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,


John E. Gibson
Reg. No. 52,944

JEG/drB

SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.
2555 Grand Blvd
Kansas City, Missouri 64108
Phone: 816/474-6550
Fax: 816/421-5547